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Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 1

Current Handling: n/a

Document Number: 1979BUENOS08243

10/5/79

Channel: n/a

Case Number: 200000044

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INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 IO-14 HA-05 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00
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O R 051630Z OCT 79 ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2663 Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION (☒ Release () Excise () Deny
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA Exemption(s):
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ Declassify: () In Part (☒) In Full
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E.O 12065 GDS 10-5-85 (FRIEDMAN, TOWNSEND B.) OR-P
TAGS SHUM, AR
SUBJECT (U) HUMAN RIGHTS SUMMARY - SEPTEMBER 26-OCTOBER 5

REF: BUENOS AIRES 8067

[REDACTED] SUMMARY: THE REPORT OF THE DISAPPEARANCE OF A YOUNG
WOMAN OCTOBER 5TH AND AN ABORTIVE HARDLINE COUP ATTEMPT
TOPPED THE HUMAN RIGHTS NEWS THIS WEEK. A COURT ORDERED
A WOMAN CHARGED WITH SUBVERSION AND FIED IN 1976 RE-
TURNED TO HER JOB. EUROPEAN CRITICISM OF THE ARGENTINE
GOVERNMENT OVER ITS HUMAN RIGHTS RECORDS GREW. BUENOS
AIRES HERALD EDITOR ROBERT COX WAS REPORTEDLY THREATENED.
END SUMMARY.

L. (U) NEW DISAPPEARANCE -----
THE BUENOS AIRES HERALD REPOTED OCTOBER 5 THE DIS-

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APPEARANCE OF 24 YEAR OLD ADRIANA TERESITA RIBEIRO DE GOICOCHEA, WHO WAS TAKEN FROM HER APARTMENT BY ARMED MEN DRESSED IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES ON SEPTEMBER 24. MRS GOICOCHEA'S THREE YEAR OLD SON, MARIANO, WITH HER IN THE APARTMENT WHEN SHE WAS TAKEN, WAS BROUGHT TO HER MOTHER. MRS GOICOCHEA'S MOTHER, WHO TOLD THE PRESS SHE HAD LOST CONTACT WITH HER DAUGHTER IN RECENT YEARS, HAS FILED A WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS. THE APARTMENT, WHICH MRS GOICOCHEA SHARED WITH ANOTHER YOUNG WOMAN HAD BEEN RANSACKED.

2. [REDACTED] FAILED COUP -----

THE BOTCHED COUP ATTEMPT BY HARDLINE GENERAL LUCIANO BENJAMIN MENENDEZ WAS THE BIG NEWS ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS FRONT THIS WEEK. ACCORDING TO HIS OWN REMARKS, MENENDEZ MOVED AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT BECAUSE ALLEGEDLY IT WAS COMPROMISING THE GOALS OF THE REVOLUTION. EVIDENCE OF SUCH COMPROMISE MENENDEZ SUGGESTED WAS THE RELEASE OF JACOBO TIMERMAN, THE FAILURE TO CONTINUE THE WAR AGAINST "SUBVERSIVES", THE EXPANSION OF THE RULE OF LAW AND TOLERATION OF COURT ORDERS RETURNING "SUBVERSIVES TO THEIR JOBS". MENENDEZ' ABORTIVE ATTEMPT WAS PUT DOWN WITHOUT BLOODSHED BY ARMY COMMANDER VIOLA. ALTHOUGH THE HARDLINE ELEMENTS RETAIN CONSIDERABLE STRENGTH AND UNDOUBTEDLY WILL ATTEMPT TO RECOUP THEIR LOSSES, IT APPEARS THAT PRESIDENT VIDELA AND VIOLA HAVE WON AN IMPORTANT VICTORY IN TURNING ASIDE MENENDEZ' POWER PLAY. FOR HIS PART, THE UNREPENTENT AND NOW RETIRED GENERAL MENENDEZ TOLD THE PRESS ON HIS WAY TO 90 DAYS'S RECLUSION AT AN ARMY CAMP THAT "I HOPE THE AUTHORITIES WILL NOW RESPOND TO MY CONCERNS..., MILITARY GOVERNMENTS ARE ATYPICAL AND UNCONSTITUTIONAL AND THEY OUGHT TO EXERCISE POWER IN THE MILITARY STYLE..OTHERWISE THEY ARE DEFRAUDING THE PEOPLE..."

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3. (U) COURT ORDERS A "SUBVERSIVE" REINSTATED -----

AN APPEALS COURT IN BUENOS AIRES THIS WEEK ORDERED BUENOS AIRES MUNICIPALITY TO REINSTATE AN EMPLOYEE, NELIDA CALVO, WHO WAS FIRED IN MAY, 1976 CHARGED WITH BEING A "REAL OR POTENTIAL SOURCE OF AGITATION,". IN UPHOLDING A LOWER COURT OPINION, THE COURT RULED THAT MRS CALVO'S FIRING WAS ARBITRARY, DONE WITHOUT DUE PROCESS AND WITHOUT ANY PROOF AGAINST HER. THE MUNICIPALITY WAS ALSO ORDERED TO

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PAY MRS CALVO'S BACK WAGES FROM THE TIME OF HER FIRING PLUS TWO MILLION PESOS (ABOUT \$13,000) IN DAMAGES. THE COURT ORDERED OFFERED A NICE COUNTERPOINT TO MENENDEZ' COUP ATTEMPT SINCE HE ALLEGED SUCH DECISIONS WERE A FACTOR DRIVING HIM TO TRY TO OVERTHROW THE GOVERNMENT.

4. (U) RABBINICAL SEMINARY BOMBED -----

A POTENT BOMB EXPLODED IN A BUENOS AIRES RABBINICAL SEMINARY OCTOBER 3 AT ABOUT 3 AM, FORTUNATELY CAUSING NO INJURIES BUT DOING EXTENSIVE DAMAGE TO THE BUILDING. NO GROUP HAS YET CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS ACT. FOLLOWING THE ATTACK, FEDERAL POLICE CHIEF GENERAL JUAN SASSIAIN INSPECTED THE SITE OF THE BOMBING AND TALKD TO THE HEADS OF THE ESTABLISHMENT.

5. (U) ERICA JONG BOOK BANNED -----

A BUENOS AIRES COURT BANNED ERICA JONG'S LATEST BOOK, "HOW TO SAVE YOUR OWN LIFE" AS BEING IMMORAL AND OBSCENE AND GAVE ITS DISTRIBUTOR A SUSPENDED THREE MONTH SENTENCE. THE COURT ORDER REFLECTS BOTH A MORAL CLIMATE PREVAILING IN MUCH OF ARGENTINA AS WELL AS ESTABLISHED ARGENTINE LEGAL PRACTICES WHICH ANTEDATE BY MANY YEARS THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT. WE NOTE THAT DESPITE THE ANTI-COMMUNIST FERVOR OF THE GOVERNMENT BOOKS AND OTHER LITERATURE BY COMMUNISTS ARE EASILY AVAILABLE WITHIN THE COUNTRY.

6. [REDACTED] EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ATTACKS ARGENTINA -----
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THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ADOPTED A RESOLUTION IN ITS MOST RECENT RESSSION CALLING UPO N MEMBER GOVERNMENTS TO BREAK RELATIONS WITH ARGENTINA AS A GROSS HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATOR. THE GOA, WE UNDERSTAND, HAS BEEN INCENSED BY THIS REACTION AND HAS CALLED IN ALL EC AMBASSADORS IN BUENOS AIRES TO MAKE A STRONG PROTEST. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE RECENT LAW OF PRESUMPTIVE DEATH PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN STIMULATING THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT TO ACT. SEVERAL HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS HERE AS WELL AS MEMBERS OF THE GOA HAVE POINTED OUT TO US THAT THIS LAW WAS IN FACT PUSHED THROUGH THE GOVERNMENT BY INDIVIDUALS WHO WERE

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AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
USUN NEW YORK 1038
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SYMPATHETIC TO THE PLIGHT OF THE RELATIVES OF THE DIS-
APPEARED AND SOUGHT SINCRELY TO TRY TO ALLEVIATE THEIR
DIFFICULTIES. HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS HOWEVER REMAIN CON-
VINCED THAT THE LAW WAS ILL-CONCEIVED IN GIVING THE GOVERN-
MENT EXTRAORDINARY POWERS TO DECLARE A DISAPPEARED PERSON
DEAD, EVEN IF THE GOVERNMENT HAD NO INTENTION OF MISUSING
THIS FACULTY.

7. (U) IN THE SAME CONNECTION THE REMARKS IN PRAISE OF
GOA BY THE FORMER FRENCH EMBASSY MILITARY ATTACHE (LE GUEN),
MADE JUST BEFORE HE LEFT BUENOS AIRES, KICKED OFF A STORM
OF PROTESTS IN FRANCE AND SOCIALIST DEPUTIES HAVE CALLED
FOR AN INQUIRY INTO LE GUEN'S CONDUCT. THE ATTACHE PRAISED
ARGENTINA'S ATTITUDE TOWARD TERRORISTS AS APPROPRIATE TO
THE CIRCUMSTANCES THE NATION FACED. MEANWHILE, THE FRENCH
JAVY REPORTEDLY WITHDREW AN OFFICIAL INVITATION FOR THE
ARGENTINE TRAINING VESSEL, LIBERTAD, NOW IN EUROPE, TO
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VISIT FRANCE.

8. [REDACTED] EDITOR THREATENED -----

WE LEARNED FROM BRITISH EMBASSY COLLEAGUES THAT BUENOS AIRES HERALD EDITOR ROBERT COX AND HIS FAMILY RECEIVED THREATS AGAINST THEIR LIVES JUST BEFORE COX LEFT FOR THE UNITED STATES, WHERE HE TOOK PART IN A WOODROW WILSON FOUNDATION SEMINAR. IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE KLEIN BOMBING THE THREATS APPEARED SERIOUS, AND THE FAMILY TEMPORARILY LEFT THEIR DOWNTOWN APARTMENT TO STAY WITH FRIENDS. IT APPEARS THAT THINGS NOW ARE BACK TO NORMAL AND THAT COX IS RECEIVING SPECIAL POLICE PROTECTION. (NOTE: THIS NEWS CAME TO US LATE AND WE DID NOT HAVE TIME TO TALK WITH COX PERSONALLY ABOUT THE PROBLEM. MORE ON THIS LATER.)
CASTRO

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